

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance. Claims 52-81 are pending, with claims 52, 68, 75, and 76 being independent.

Claims 22-32, 35-38, and 40-49 were rejected as being anticipated by Garfinkle (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0054768) and claims 33, 34, 50, and 51 were rejected as being unpatentable over Garfinkle in view Tang (U.S. Patent No. 6,349,327). Applicant has cancelled claims 22-38 and 40-51 by this amendment, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

Applicant submits that new independent claim 52 is allowable because neither Garfinkle, Tang, nor a proper combination of the two, describe or suggest causing display of a message to a user indicating that an obscured version of an image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether the image is objectionable without having to view the image at a first display clarity that is higher than a second display clarity of the obscured version of the image, as recited by independent claim 52.

Rather, the Garfinkle system displays thumbnail images of photographs to a user without displaying any message indicating a reason for displaying the thumbnail images to the user. Moreover, Tang, which was cited for teaching an instant messaging system and displaying an instant message concurrently with a display item in a separate dialog box, does not remedy the deficiencies of Garfinkle discussed above.

For at least these reasons, applicant submits that new independent claim 52 and its dependent claims are allowable.

New independent claims 68 and 75 each recite, among other things, causing display of a message to a user indicating that an obscured version of the image is displayed to the user to enable the user to determine whether an image is objectionable without having to view the image at a first display clarity that is higher than a second display clarity of the obscured version of the image. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 52, applicant submits that new independent claims 68 and 75, along with the claims that depend from claim 68, are allowable.

New independent claim 76 recites, among other things, in response to first user input, causing display of a second obscured version of an image to a user. The second obscured

version of the image has the same display size as the image and a first obscured version of the image and has a third display clarity that is higher than a second display clarity of the first obscured version of the image and that is lower than a first display clarity of the image.

Applicant submits that neither Garfinkle, Tang, nor any proper combination of the two, describe or suggest at least these features.

Specifically, Garfinkle does not describe or suggest causing display of a second obscured version of an image that has the same display size as the image and that has a third display clarity that is higher than a second display clarity of a first obscured version of the image and that is lower than a first display clarity of the image. Rather, Garfinkle describes displaying a larger version of a digital image when a user selects a thumbnail of the digital image without displaying an image with a clarity in between the clarity of the thumbnail image and the clarity of the larger version of the image.

Again, Tang, which was cited for teaching an instant messaging system and displaying an instant message concurrently with a display item in a separate dialog box, does not remedy the deficiencies of Garfinkle discussed above.

For at least these reasons, applicant submits that new independent claim 76 and its dependent claims are allowable.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

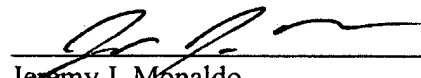
Applicant : James Crawford
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Page : 13 of 13

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Respectfully submitted,

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Jeremy J. Monaldo
Reg. No. 58,680

Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331

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